

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Ceramic tube for use in a vacuum circuit breaker, the ceramic tube (3) being cylindrical in shape with a set length and a set internal diameter, with a cylindrical end face (11) at each end of the cylinder shape, it being possible for a metal end cap (4,6) to be secured in a vacuum-tight manner to each cylindrical end face (11) to form a vacuum chamber (8), characterized in that the cylindrical end face (11) is shaped in such a manner that, in the assembled state, it makes contact with the metal end cap (4,6) at least as far as the internal diameter of the ceramic tube (3) in order to prevent, in operation of the vacuum circuit breaker, a concentration of electrical field at the triple junction of metal end cap (4,6), ceramic tube (3) and vacuum chamber (8).

2. (Currently amended) Ceramic tube according to Claim 1, in which the cylindrical end face (11) on an inner side of the ceramic tube (3) forms an angle of substantially at most 90° with an inner surface (13) of the ceramic tube (3).

3. (Currently amended) Ceramic tube according to Claim 1 or 2, in which the cylindrical end face (11) on an outer side of the ceramic tube (3) forms an angle of at least 90° with an outer surface of the ceramic tube (3).

4. (Currently amended) Vacuum circuit breaker (10) provided with a ceramic tube (3) according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1.

5. (New) Ceramic tube according to Claim 2, in which the cylindrical end face on an outer side of the ceramic tube forms an angle of at least 90° with an outer surface of the ceramic tube.

6. (New) Vacuum circuit breaker provided with a ceramic tube according to Claim 2.

7. (New) Vacuum circuit breaker provided with a ceramic tube according to Claim 6, in which the cylindrical end face on an outer side of the ceramic tube forms an angle of at least 90° with an outer surface of the ceramic tube.